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German Democratic Republic

FDD Abstract

EXCERPTS FROM A SPEECH BY ZILLER, CHIEF OF GDR MINISTRY FOR MACHINE-BUILDING (4 pp; German; 1 March 1951)

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This document consists of typewritten excerpts from a 1 March 1951 speech by Ziller, chief of the GDR Ministry for Machine-Building.

Taking the current Five-Year Plan and the role of his particular Ministry as a central theme, Ziller refers, in the trite fashion of such oratory, to the vast achievements already made and the great tasks which lie ahead. Cooperation and efficiency are urged and a good word is also spoken for the machine-building industry's National Prize Winners, Heroes of Labor, and other Stakhanovites. The remainder of the excerpts, except for a few round figures on specific items, are equally valueless. These infrequent pertinencies are summarized below:

- (a) Annual production goals of the Ministry for Machine Building are 35 percent higher than those for 1950.
- (b) The Ministry for Machine-Building consists of six Main Administrations, responsible for administering, guiding, and developing enterprises directly subordinate to them: heavy machinery, general machine-building, motor vehicle construction, shipbuilding, electrical industry, precision mechanics and optics. The organizational structures of these various administrations are outlined and a list provided of some 21 enterprises for which directives and details will be issued immediately.
- (c) There are 31,000 persons employed in the 24 key industrial enterprises in the GDR. The number of employees is supposed to reach 63,000 by the end of the Five-Year Plan, at which time value of productions is expected to be 3.5 times the 1950 level.
- (d) The Government has decided to establish a Central Designing (Engineering?) Bureau which, being in a position to appreciate the broad aspects of the Five-Year Plan, will define, study, and control essential engineering tasks and see that they are carried out on schedule.
- (e) A successful designers' conference was held on 18/19 January 1951, at which various participants were informed of the significant progress being made in their particular fields.
- (f) The importance of research and development work was emphasized. An ambitious research and development plan provides for work on 596 specific research problems, while a supplementary plan calls for the study of 612 practical production problems.

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